

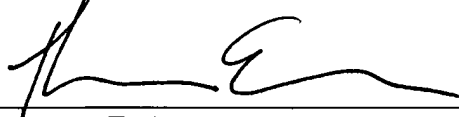
**REMARKS**

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action of October 7, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-9 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagai, U.S. Patent No. 5,785,359. Applicant has amended claim 7 to include the limitations of claim 10 which the Examiner indicated as being allowable over the cited art. Additionally, Applicant is submitting new claims 19-33.

Applicant's invention differs from that of the primary reference cited by the Examiner, namely U.S. Patent No. 5,785,359 to Nagai et al. Nagai discloses connecting two identical structural parts (10) together utilizing surfaces of both structural parts and a connecting device extending between the structural parts. The connecting device includes engaging members 408, a cylindrical sleeve 410 and a threaded pin 48 to draw the engaging members axially into the cylinder to draw the surfaces of two structural parts together. Applicant's device does not draw surfaces of two different parts (structural members) together. Rather, Applicant's invention draws tight against the engaging edge of only one part (structural member). Applicant's invention utilizes only a base and slide which move in a longitudinal rather than axial direction to clamp to one part. A separate leg is provided on the base of the assembly for connection to a second part. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Nagai et al. does not teach, disclose or suggest a device having a slide which is longitudinally movable with respect to the base to engage a first part as set forth in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 and allowance of the claims.

If the Examiner has any further questions, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (248) 647-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Anderson  
Registration No. 31,318  
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,  
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.  
280 N. Old Woodward, Suite 400  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 647-6000

Date: 3/3/04

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Dawn Tuchel